

**Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Workgroup
Meeting Minutes ~ July 18, 2008
Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians ~ Healdsburg, CA**

WELCOME, OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Percy Tejada, ICWA Director of the Dry Creek Rancheria welcomed the workgroup to Dry Creek. Percy and Theresa Sam, ICWA Workgroup Co-Chairs chaired the meeting.

- **TRIBAL STAR:** Tim Lidot presented a video of tribal youth telling their stories about life in foster care. Resource handouts and DVD were provided to the group. Discussion regarding the Tribal STAR “Other Side of ICWA” training curriculum for addressing the needs of Indian youth, and cross cultural relations to promote Tribal/County collaboration. Upcoming trainings will be held in Hemet and Placer. Workgroup was asked if training is needed in their area to let them know. The Other Side of ICWA curriculum is on the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) website.
- **AGENDA ADDITIONS:** State Independent Living Program ILP, Del Norte County placement preference, AB 490.
- **ILP SUBCOMMITTEE:** Nanette Gledhill of Cal-ICWA reported that they are conducting research in this area and that she volunteered to be on the ILP Committee. Nanette provided information about the ILP Subcommittee meeting, stated that the meeting wasn’t a forum conducive to tribal representation. Discussed the fact that on the TILP, there was only one question about ICWA. Encouraged the tribal representatives to interact with the state ILP person about their concerns specific to tribal youth.
- **DEL NORTE COUNTY:** Liz Elgin DeRouen reported that a social worker from Del Norte County didn’t want to place in a tribally approved home because the tribe did not have a tribal/state agreement. Liz provided background information on this specific case. A suggestion was made to speak with the program manager for that county, who is known to other tribes to be in full support of ICWA and is working with the tribes. Teresa Contreras mentioned that the ICWA Workgroup had a subcommittee (Tribally Approved Homes Subcommittee) to address the issue of tribally approved homes. Teresa reported the state met with Tribal and county representatives to discuss barriers to recognition of tribally approved homes. Based on discussions in the subcommittee, it is clear there is much misinformation about what is provided in ICWA and how tribally approved homes should be recognized. The state has an All County Information Notice (ACIN) is currently in draft form to discuss the issue of placement in tribally approved homes.
- **AB 490:** Tribal reps indicated that this is an education bill that provides for children removed from their homes into out of home care to stay in their original school. Tribes want to know if it can be incorporated into the ICWA training.
- **ICWA WORKGROUP WEBSITE:** Nancy Currie of the Soboba Tribe reported that she is still working on the development of the website but that it will be up soon and they will post an ICWA Workgroup web page on their site by the end of the month.

- **CASEY FAMILY PROGRAM'S COLLABORATION WITH CA TRIBES:** Lucille Echohawk, with the Casey Family Programs (CFP) reported that they are very interested in working with CA Tribes and the State in addressing ICWA issues. She distributed a pamphlet re CFP. Their primary focus is creating partnerships to improve outcomes and reduce the number of children in foster care and ensure there is necessary funding for family preservation. They work with issues of disproportionality and disparity, and would like to be involved in the 2009 State ICWA Conference. Lucille also shared information regarding the BIA's 2nd National Conference on Child Protection and Child Welfare in Indian Country, will be held in Billings, Montana, August 18-22, 2008. She spoke about CFPs peer technical assistance project. There was also discussion of data and work by Casey at the national and state level on improving data. They are trying to generate foundation funding interest in Northern California and the Bay Area in terms of resource development. Discussed data collection instruments and computer database case management assistance for tribes: Social Solutions/Efforts to Outcomes is an outcome computer system for data collection that may be useful to tribal child welfare departments. Miryam Choca, also with CFP discussed a data program called SNAP that was created by Los Angeles county counsel to track ICWA cases and information. Discussed the need for uniformity in data collection and making sure that multiple data systems are not used that cannot "talk to each other". A suggestion was made that a person or subcommittee be assigned to look at different data collection systems to discover the best systems available. Kimberly Cluff volunteered to set up a conference call regarding this issue, and she will report back at the next meeting.
- **AB 2736:** Nancy Currie and Kimberly Cluff reported that this bill was going to the Senate Floor; full faith and credit issue will be amended on the Senate Floor. Letters of support will be sought. When it is in print, Nancy Currie will send a notification and let everyone know when the next hearing is as well as how to provide a letter of support. After the bill passes, the workgroup can develop information for tribes on how to utilize this law, should they choose, and information to the counties on what to do in those circumstances.
- **REPORT ON 15TH ANNUAL STATE ICWA CONFERENCE:** A report was provided by Matthew West. The primary focus of this year's conference was going beyond mere ICWA compliance. Information from the conference will be put on a CD. Next year there will be an ICWA Summit in Morongo, the central valley, and the northern region. AOC is working on sharing resources via their website; Anne Smith is working on this.

Teresa Contreras reported that next year's ICWA conference will be in Northern California. She asked that the Northern California tribes consider what tribe or tribes would like to host the State ICWA Conference in 2009.

- **TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE:** Ana Bolanos-Kellison, reported that this committee will meet on July 22, 2008, 1:30–3:30 in Sacramento. Let Ana know if you are interested in attending.
- **EXPERT WITNESS SUBCOMMITTEE:** Ana reported that this subcommittee is being delayed until the Fall due to priorities to complete the current work (tribally approved homes). An ACIN to present guidelines will be developed by this subcommittee. This subcommittee will also work on related training issues.

- **NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY:** Ana reported that this celebration will be held at the capitol on September 26, 2008. CDSS will have a booth and will pay any fees for the tribal organizations that want to share the booth.
- **AOC HANDOUT:** A handout was provided regarding the ICWA Initiative. Christine Williams offered that she hopes in the future the AOC ICWA Initiative will focus more on outcomes, not just training.
- **OTHER HANDOUTS:** The governor signed legislation regarding youth in foster care with resources and information. Updated ICWA Workgroup accomplishments also distributed.
- **ANNOUNCEMENT:** Liz De Rouen announced their upcoming “Dreams not Drugs Program”, geared toward children ages 10-17. It is a three-day campout held July 25-27, 2008. There may be 150 children and chaperones attending the workshops.
- **NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 19, 2008 ~ CDSS ~ SACRAMENTO, CA**

TERESA ANNOUNCED THAT THE NOVEMBER 21, 2008 WILL BE IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY AND ASKED CENTRAL VALLEY REPS TO DISCUSS WHO WILL HOST AND TO LET CDSS KNOW SO THAT WE CAN PLAN.

- **MEETING ADJOURNED**